

Mc Vickar (G. A.)

HOMŒOPATHIA,

A

PRINCIPLE IN MEDICINE

AND

NOT AN EXCLUSIVE SYSTEM;

IN

A LETTER

TO

ALBAN GOLD-SMITH, M.D.

BY

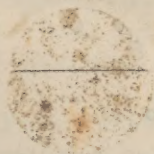
JNO. AUG. McVICKAR, M.D.

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MY DEAR DOCTOR :

THE attention with which you have favoured me, in our occasional conversations on Homœopathia, and your known disposition to elicit and encourage truth, have emboldened me again to tax your patience for a few moments, while I endeavour, very briefly, to bring together the facts and arguments which, at different times, I have advanced in our friendly discussions.

And, in the first place, *of the DUTY of physicians to examine Homœopathia.*

Morally, we are interested in whatever concerns medicine, and are bound, by every principle of duty and common honesty, to inquire whether these things be so or not.

We owe it to our Profession. The science of medicine gives to her children high and honourable consideration throughout the world, and she justly demands, in return, the most disinterested exercise of our best faculties.

We owe it to the Public. Our fellow-men, who have so great a stake in our hands, have a right to require a reason for our belief, or disbelief, of what, received and cherished by one as a truth, is rejected by another ; and, possessing the means and opportunity for testing its pretensions, how can we justify our contemptuous re-

jection without examination, of the result of years of labour, not of one mind, but of hundreds?

We owe it to the cause of Science. She admits not our plea of its apparent absurdity; but expressly commands, that, "however contradictory two things may appear to our limited judgment, if they are proved to be facts, they must be admitted: leaving it to future observation to account for the apparent anomaly." And does not every-day experience in the discoveries of science, show us the folly of refusing facts, simply because we cannot immediately reconcile them with our preconceived notions, or explain them on known principles?

Is it reasonable, then, is it philosophical, is it honest, in physicians, to reject, condemn, and ridicule that of which they know nothing? Yet many unblushingly denounce Homœopathia as a humbug, and its discoverer and disciples as either knaves or fools.

Secondly. *Arguments based upon the wants of the old school system of medicine, and the POSSIBILITY that Homœopathia may furnish the desideratum.*

The science of medicine embraces two general departments, viz: The knowledge of disease, and the knowledge of remedies. And from these is deduced what is termed the theory of medicine; the *modus operandi* of remedies in the relief and cure of disease.

Now admit that the theories of the old school are perfectly philosophical; that medicines, administered on their principles, cure disease; and that, as they for the most part apply medicines on these principles, they can account for the majority of the cures which they make; but can they account for all the cures which

they acknowledge to have been the result of medicine? Have not remedies been discovered accidentally to cure diseases, and afterwards been generally used in similar cases, with the same results, the *modus operandi* of which the principles of the old school could not explain? And do not physicians confess, that they prescribe some remedies without being able to give the reason why they do so, except that they seem to act as *specifics* on such diseases, or such organs, — or that, in similar cases, they have proved serviceable?

Again; in observing the vicissitudes of reputation, which different medicines have suffered in times past, which for a season have had promise of immortality as remedies in particular diseases, and afterwards been discarded as useless, what is the most reasonable solution of the problem? Is it to suppose that they never possessed the power for which they had credit? — That can hardly be; for many of them are again received into favour, and some enjoy a reputation little short of what they had before their fall. Is it not, rather, that their operation on disease could not be explained by the known principles of medicine, (for they cannot be now,) and that, consequently, they were used only upon blind empirical experience, and therefore could not be relied on?

Why have not bloodletting, opium, tartar emetic, and the like, passed through the same trials? Simply because their general effects are known, and on general principles only they are prescribed.

Does not all this go to show, that, although the therapeutics of the old school set forth correct principles, as far as they go, they yet want some other principle, or

principles, to explain the operation of some medicines in curing diseases — (cures they acknowledge,) which cannot be explained by those they already know? A sense of this deficiency led to the discovery of Homœopathia.

Thirdly. *It is unphilosophical to refuse to examine Homœopathia.* Whence have we derived all the knowledge that we already possess of the operations of medicines? And from what source are we to look for more? Your answer can only be, “from experience.” For what can we know of the effects of medicines, except from experience? Would the colour, weight, smell, or taste of calomel and tartar emetic, teach us why the one acts especially on the liver, and glandular system, and the other on the stomach and skin; or why one is given in ten grain doses, and the other in those of an eighth of a grain? I wish to insist upon this point, for it clearly shows the absurdity of some physicians refusing to test, what others from experience assert to be facts.

If experience proves that a medicine produces a certain effect, and again that it produces a certain other effect contrary to the first, the two facts stand upon the same basis, however unaccountable it may seem to us. So also with regard to the quantity it is necessary to administer to produce an effect, or that can be given with safety; and the duration of the effects of medicines.

Fourthly. *Facts favouring Homœopathia, and which are known to, and acknowledged by, the old school.*

1. That medicines do cure disease similar to that which they produce. In a full dose, the effect of Opi-

um, and that for which it is commonly used by them, is sedative and soporific. Accordingly, opium is homœopathic to torpor of the system, and sleepiness; and the old school practitioners know that it will relieve these conditions. — They administer *small doses* of opium to stimulate the system, and to remove drowsiness. — Again, nitrate of silver, in a strong form, applied to the skin, excites cutaneous inflammation. It is therefore homœopathic to inflammation of the skin; and they use it, in a *weak preparation*, to relieve and cure inflammation of the skin. These are every day cases; but I might cite many others, and not a few upon the authority of the London Medico-Chirurgical Review, whose author, although one of the bitterest enemies of Homœopathia, repeatedly, through that Journal, tells us that certain conditions of organs are produced by certain drugs; and in the same article, recommends these same drugs, as remedies in these very conditions, when they are the result of other causes. See Articles entitled “GLEANINGS,” in Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, of the Homœopathic Examiner; in which will also be found, the evidences of other distinguished physicians to the same effect. Among others, Dr. Eberle of our own country, your intimate friend and late colleague, who, recommending balsam of capaiva and spirits of turpentine, in inflammation of the intestines, observes, “although it may appear inconsistent, after having declared that the most unirritating diet is indispensable in its treatment, whatever may be the conclusions of *reason* on the subject, *experience, which is always our best instructor*, teaches that they are often decidedly beneficial.” He adds, — “*these remedies, however, must be*

given in small doses." But writers on materia medica tell us, and all physicians will admit the same, that balsam of copaiva, and spirits of turpentine, produce inflammation of the intestines, when given in large quantities.

2. That, when the effects of the medicine to be administered are similar to those of the existing disease, a less quantity can be borne. I quote again the observation of Dr. Eberle, that when balsam of copaiva and spirits of turpentine are used in inflammation of the intestines, they must be given in small doses. Also that of Dr. Johnson, who says that "by large doses of kreosote and prussic acid, vomiting is excited; that from the same doses when given with the view of checking vomiting, no good results, but that *small doses* appear to appease vomiting." But who will pretend to say, that a person labouring under excitement, could bear the same quantity of a drug having a tendency to produce a similar excitement, as he could if he were not in this condition: or that one in a debilitated state, could as well bear weakening remedies, as if he were strong? Consequently, when it is necessary to make use of these remedies in these conditions, the doses must be proportionably reduced.

3. That circumstances may exist in which incredibly minute doses are not only active, but violent in their effects.

It is well known, that particular drugs, which may be taken with impunity by one person, in a considerable quantity, in another produce serious and alarming effects. For instance, the opening of a bottle of Ipecac. in the room where they are, will occasion a most distressing attack of asthma, in some persons, while others swoon

from the fragrance of a rose. It is unnecessary to take up your time with more examples of what are termed idiosyncrasies, as they are well known. I have only touched upon them, to prove, as stated in the heading, that it is *possible* that incredibly small doses may be active. But, to show that the power of agents to act upon the living body is erroneously associated in our minds with bulk, consider the inappreciable particles which produce disease. As a late writer observes, "If we were to receive a packet from a distant country, where it was known the plague raged, with what fear and caution should we venture to open it! Yet where is the eye, or nose, to see or smell — where the balance to weigh — this frightful miasma? invisible, inodorous, imponderable, yet still an entity, which is capable of changing a healthy body into corruption in a few hours."

Are not the foregoing what I asserted them to be, "facts known and acknowledged by the old school?" And although they would be incredible indeed, if they were not proved by experience, now that they are proved, is there any thing so monstrous or absurd about them? You cannot fail to perceive that they touch upon Homœopathic ground; and, I assure you, not only so, but they embrace the substance, and even what are falsely termed the absurdities, of Homœopathia. — And all that *intrinsically* belongs to Homœopathia is based upon the same foundation — EXPERIENCE — and is just as reconcilable, when once appreciated.

As I have already observed, a sense of the insufficiency of the principles of medicine already known to the old school, led to the discovery of Homœopathia. This will be explained in the brief sketch of its history, which

I shall now give. But, first, let us inquire who this Hahnemann was, who has created such a revolution in medicine, almost, as we shall see, throughout the world. Let us look into his motives, and abilities, one, at least, of which is impugned, in the epithets applied to him by the enemies of his doctrines. What says his Biographer?

“ Previous to his appearance as the reformer of medicine, Hahnemann had been known and esteemed as one of the most learned, accomplished, and meritorious physicians in Germany. Distinguished for his acquisition in philological learning, possessing a comprehensive acquaintance with the natural sciences, and particularly chemistry, his reading, through the whole range of medical literature, was extensive. And in every respect he had acquired a thorough medical education. After he had laid the foundation of his education, at one of the most considerable schools of classical literature, Afra, near Meissen, which afterwards led him to a familiarity with the writings of Greek and Roman physicians, and had studied at several of the German Universities, he went to Transylvania, in the capacity of physician and librarian to a nobleman. Here he cultivated an acquaintance with the works of Arabian physicians, and the medical literature of the middle ages. During his residence, as practising physician, subsequently, at Dresden and Leipsig, he availed himself of the extensive libraries of those places; and his endeavours were incessant there, to add to the stores of his knowledge in every particular.

Nor were his extraordinary talents, which in riper years rendered him one of the greatest medical geniuses,

unknown at that time. He contributed not a little to the improvement of medicine ; among other things, he directed his attention to the subject of poisons, which were then treated in a very unsafe and precarious manner ; and his book on the poison of arsenic was, at that time, of great and acknowledged value ;” and “ his translations from the English, French, and Italian writers, were of considerable utility. In one of his large works, he has provided for the more scientific instruction of the apothecaries, and produced a very beneficial influence in this hitherto so indispensable a calling to medicine. This work brought him into great repute with the apothecaries of Germany. While all his writings, including the many notes appended to his translations, denote the learned and thoroughly accomplished physician, the strict and conscientious man, the earnest inquirer after truth, and the profound observer.”

HISTORY OF HOMŒOPATHIA. Having observed that the Peruvian bark, which was regarded as a specific in intermittent fevers, while it cured many cases, not only failed in others, but sometimes actually proved injurious, Hahnemann argued, that it must act upon some principle as yet undiscovered, since the received theory of its *modus operandi* could not account for its failures, nor determine, beforehand, the cases in which it might be relied on. He also conceived the idea, that the effect of drugs upon the healthy body, might afford a clue to the rationale of their operation on disease, and thereby furnish a guide for the selection of remedies. Accordingly, he determined to test the effects of the Peruvian bark upon himself, then in health ; which he did, by doses frequently repeated, until his system was brought fully

under its influence. The result was, a train of symptoms resembling a paroxysm of fever — chill, heat, and sweat, with concomitant symptoms. The fact was thus established, that this medicine was capable of producing a disease, similar in its general features, to that which it would cure. But this was not sufficient. His object was to discover to what variety of intermittent fever it was applicable, what particular symptoms marked the indication for it. To arrive at this desideratum, not ordinary study merely was requisite, but the most untiring and self-denying devotedness. But a ray of light had broken in upon him, which promised the greatest benefits to medicine and the world ; and it found him neither a timid voluptuary, nor a cautious time-server : a pioneer in a new and strange doctrine, at variance with the interest as well as the creed of the many, he met with such revilings and persecutions as nothing but an approving conscience, resting upon the firmest conviction of truth, could have stemmed. The experiments which he had made upon himself, were repeated upon others, and the symptoms carefully noted. He next collected, from those who had been cured of intermittents by the bark, a detailed history of their cases, and compared the symptoms with those produced by the medicine itself. The striking similarity between them, and especially in their relative order and succession, convinced him, that, with regard to one remedy at least, and in one disease, it cured the same symptoms, and groups of symptoms, which of itself it could produce.

Having learned in what cases of intermittent fever he might expect a cure from the Peruvian bark, and in what cases he could not, he prescribed accordingly ;

and to the effect of proving the law which he had discovered. His next step was, to search authorities, both ancient and modern, for similar coincidences in other remedies, and other diseases. Of these he found numerous records, and even suggestions of the principle of curing diseases by remedies capable of producing similar diseases. This was hinted at 2000 years ago, in writings ascribed to the father of medicine ; afterwards insisted upon by Paracelsus, who, whatever were his follies, is acknowledged to have been a benefactor to medicine ; also by several others during the sixteenth century, and again by Stahl, a Danish physician of celebrity, about A. D. 1700. But these precepts were never acted upon. They were, in fact, forgotten, until Hahnemann made the discovery fifty years ago, and afterwards devoted himself to the perfection of the system, to which he gave the name *Homœopathia*, from two Greek words signifying similar disease.

After the Peruvian bark, his experiments upon persons in health, were made with different articles ; and the trials of the same article were repeated on different individuals : the symptoms produced in each case being carefully observed and recorded, and afterwards proved, by being administered to the sick on the *Homœopathic* principle.

The law, "*similia similibus curantur*," was now established, beyond a possibility of doubt, as a general principle of medicine, by the same test, (experience,) which had proved it with regard to one disease, (intermittent fever,) and one remedy, (the Peruvian bark.)

This, sir, is *Homœopathia*, and *Homœopathia* is this. It is neither more or less than, that diseases can be

cured by medicines, which are capable of producing, in a healthy person, a *similar* disease — a truth based upon experience, the source of all knowledge, and the only test by which facts must be admitted or denied, and against which, assertion and ridicule are impotent and puerile — a science which more than doubles our resources in medicine, by teaching us another principle besides those we already possessed, for the application of remedies to disease; thereby, not only increasing our power over ordinary diseases, but actually enabling us to cure many, which have been treated in vain by remedies applied on the principles before known. Another most important advantage of a knowledge of Homœopathia, to physicians of the old school, is, that it teaches them how to avoid those horrible aggravations of disease, by medicine, which are so common, by avoiding large doses when we prescribe a remedy, whose symptoms are very similar to those of the disease, to which we are about to apply it — in other words when the remedy is Homœopathic to the disease — as experience proves that, under these circumstances, not only a very small dose is efficient, but a large one is injurious, aye, dangerous. Observe the following case, which I extract from a late Medical Journal, reported to a society of physicians by one of its members. “A young, robust, healthy-looking man, with a fair, florid complexion, noticed a swelling under his tongue, which was not attended with pain. The swelling, the Dr. says, was evidently that of the sublingual gland; it raised the tongue, and produced some swelling under the chin. When first seen, the breath of the patient was noticed to have a strong mercurial odour. He was

ordered a dose of *calomel* and jalap, on the evening of the day following that on which he first observed the swelling. The next day, at the Dr.'s first visit, the patient was bled, and had leeches applied, followed by poultices. His tongue then swelled rapidly, and reached to the roof of his mouth, producing difficulty of breathing and swallowing. He was now bled to syncope, and an incision was made through the integuments under the chin externally; the edges of the incision receded, but the loss of blood from it, and the opening, afforded only partial relief. Free incisions were then made the whole length of the tongue itself, with immediate relief of the symptoms; and in a few days, all the troublesome symptoms had nearly disappeared. The tongue is now thrown to the left side, like that of a paralytic, but it does not affect his speech. The Dr. thinks that the patient would probably have suffocated, if the incisions in the tongue had not been made. The tongue now looks thinner than natural. The symptoms were very formidable in forty-eight hours from the time of their first appearance. The Dr. has noticed a mercurial odour of the breath, in patients with fracture of the lower jaw, and also in those with diseases of the salivary glands, where mercury has not been taken."

This case exemplifies my position. The patient had a swelling of a salivary gland, and he had that peculiar odour which mercury gives to the breath, when it has affected the salivary glands, but which the Doctor has observed in diseases of the salivary glands, when mercury has not been taken. And we are to infer from his remarks, although he does not state the fact, that this patient had not taken it. Accordingly, he had a dis-

ease similar to what mercury produces, but of which mercury was not the cause; mercury was therefore Homœopathic to it; but, instead of a minute dose, an ordinary Allœopathic one was given, (on the evening of the second day.) The next morning the disease (the swelling of the gland) was exceedingly aggravated, in-somuch that it now justified the prospect of affording relief within the mouth, by an incision into it externally. It, in fact, was so swollen, as to cause eversion of the edges of the incision; whereas it is spoken of only as presenting, on the second day of its existence, (at the time the mercury was given,) *some swelling* under the chin. But besides this aggravation, there is also swelling of the tongue, to such a degree as to impede swallowing and breathing. (*Swelling of the tongue is a marked symptom of mercury, as is known to every one who has seen cases of salivation.*)

Is there not strong ground for suspecting the mercury to have been the cause of much of the trouble, particularly when we consider the comparative unimportance of the disease as described at the end of about thirty-six hours from its commencement, at which time the mercury was given, and that in forty-eight hours from its commencement, (i. e. twelve hours after the mercury,) the symptoms were very formidable.

Again, a knowledge of Homœopathia gives its possessor infinite advantage over one who is ignorant of it, in the application of remedies whose effects are opposite to the symptoms of the disease — which the old school assume to be theirs. If this principle be the correct one, or more frequently applicable than any other, how much better prepared is the Homœopathist, from his

knowledge of the minute details of the pure effects of medicine, that is, their effects upon the healthy body, unmixt with those of disease, to apply remedies precisely contrary, in the symptoms which they produce, to those of the disease.

We come next to consider what are termed, by its enemies, "the absurdities of Homœopathia." These include, 1st, some things which the necessities of the case demand, and, as I think, I have satisfactorily shown, facts justify ; and, 2d, others which are only problematical, and therefore have nothing to do with the truth or falsity of Homœopathia ; although insisted upon by its opponents as an important item, and a part and parcel of the science. In fact, what they style "the absurdities of the system," is all that they know of it, and that, for the most part, from hearsay.

Under the first head, come the size of the doses, the intervals between the doses, &c. &c. These, as I have said before, are determined by observation and experience, and no one has a right to deny them without a trial. But I have, I think, made it clear, that one thing at least, (the necessity of reducing the dose, where the medicine is Homœopathic to the case,) is not opposed to reason, or common sense, even at first sight. All I can say is, try them for yourself.

Secondly. Theories of Hahnemann. It will be admitted, that every one who pretends to think for himself, will, in observing results follow causes, form some idea in his own mind, how the one produces the other. In other words, each man has his own theory, however opposed it may be, or ridiculous it may seem, to that of another ; but the multitudes of theories, or the extrava-

gance of any, do not affect the truth of the science which they attempt to explain. So in Homœopathia. Hahnemann has his own theories, and each of its disciples creates them for himself, and Homœopathia is not affected by either.

It is necessary that I should notice, in particular, one position of Hahnemann, which has given most offence to the old school, and especially to that portion who are devoting themselves to the enriching of medical science by pathological research; for it has done so entirely through their misapprehension of what that (so called) pathology was, against which Hahnemann wrote. It must be recollected, that when his *Organon* was written, what is now meant by the word Pathology scarcely existed, — or, at any rate, was in a crude and imperfect state. For, although the works of Morgagni, and one or two others, had appeared, yet, as Dr. Jas. Johnson remarks in the *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, Sept. No., 1820, “it is in vain to look for minute pathological anatomy, before the present century.” So that, had Hahnemann opposed the pretensions of pathological anatomy at that time, it was a very different thing from what it is now. But it appears that he has never written a word against pathological anatomy, but his opposition was against the pathological theories of Brown and Broussais.

Nor do Homœopathists disregard, or neglect, pathological investigations. In fact, they number in their ranks some of the ablest and most devoted pathologists in Europe. The charge, that in Homœopathia, medicines are administered for symptoms indiscriminately, without regard to their relative importance, is too absurd and trifling to merit even a reply.

It is a common remark, that if a system be true, it will gain proselytes and will succeed ; but if not, it will not bear the test of time. I would not bring this evidence forward in support of Homœopathia, as it has not yet existed long enough (it has been known only fifty years) to expect this evidence to be admitted. But, as its opponents, from information derived from the same source whence they obtained what they know on the science of Homœopathia itself, have the idea that it is on the decline, I take pleasure in correcting the error into which they have been led, by the following extract from the Homœopathic Examiner, published in this city ; which (in passing) I may remark, as some evidence of the state of Homœopathia in this country, is liberally supported. Its only danger is, in the arduous professional duties of its able and accomplished editor.

“ OPINIONS OF EMINENT ALLOPATHISTS OF THE PRESENT AGE.

Germany. — HUFFLAND, the venerable Patriarch of German Allopathia, has conceded the existence of merit to the system of Hahnemann, whose first essay on Homœopathy was published in his Medical Journal, and for whom he has acknowledged the highest personal respect. The success of a Homœopathist, Dr. Stapf, in curing Egyptian Ophthalmia among the soldiery in the garrisons of the Rhine, attracted the attention of the Prussian Minister of War, who solicited him to visit Berlin, to take charge of its military hospitals, Lazareth and La Charité. He accepted the invitation, and officiated to the entire satisfaction of the Minister. HUFFLAND, who introduced Stapf to the assembled company

of La Charité, then paid him a deserved personal compliment, and, at the same time, expressed these impartial views respecting the Homœopathic system: — “ Homœopathia seems to me to be particularly valuable in two points of view ; first, because it promises to lead the art of healing back to the only true path of quiet observation and experience, and gives new life to the too much neglected worth of symptomatology ; and secondly, because it furnishes simplicity in the treatment of disease. The man whom I have the honour to present to you, is not a blind worshipper of his system. He is, as I have learned with joy, as well acquainted with the entire science of medicine, and as classically educated, as he is well informed in the new science. I have discovered in him an amplitude of knowledge, clearness of mind, and a spirit of *tolerance*, which last is the more worthy of notice in him, as it is not to be found in all the Homœopathists.”

France. — BROUSSAIS, the founder and champion of the celebrated “ doctrine physiologique,” that has produced such a marked revolution in the practice of medicine, advised, in his public lectures, delivered in the Ecole de Médecine at Paris, that impartial trials should be made before Homœopathia was judged or condemned, concluding his address with words that are honourable to his candour and philanthropy. “ *Many distinguished persons are occupied with it ; we cannot reject it without a hearing ; we must investigate the truth it contains !*” He proved the sincerity of his advice, by instituting a series of experiments on his own person, and in general practice, which were only interrupted by his lamented demise.

Italy. — BRERA, who holds a distinguished rank among the Allopathists of Italy, has uttered opinions of Homœopathia with fearless liberality, which demand a careful perusal. In his *Anthologia Medica*, he thus writes: — “Homœopathia is decried by some as useless and by others as strange, and though it appears to the great majority as ridiculous and extraordinary, it can nevertheless not be denied, that it has taken its stand in the scientific world; like every other doctrine, it has its books, its journals, its chairs, its hospitals, clinical lectures, professors, and most respectable communities to hear and to appreciate. Nolens volens, even its enemies must receive it in the history of medicine, for its present situation requires it.” “Having attained this rank, it deserves by no means, contempt, but, on the contrary, a cool and impartial investigation, like all other systems of modern date: Homœopathia is the more to be respected, as it propagates no directly noxious errors.” “If Homœopathia proclaims facts and theories, which cannot be reconciled with our present knowledge, this is no sufficient cause, as yet, to despise it, and to rank it among absolute falsities. Wo to the physician who believes, that he cannot learn to-morrow what he does not know to-day! Do we not hear daily complaints of the insufficiency of the healing art? And are not those physicians, who honestly suspect the solidity of their knowledge, the most learned, and, in their practice, the most successful? Such sentiments have undoubtedly induced most of the German physicians to study Homœopathia, and to conquer their aversion to the new doctrine. Let us always recollect, that the greatest discoveries have given origin to the most violent contro-

versies. Witness the examples of Harvey, Gallileo, Newton, Descartes, &c."

England. — Dr. J. G. MILLINGEN, Surgeon to the British Forces, and an *Allopathic* practitioner of distinction, has offered the following comments on Homœopathia in his "Curiosities of Medical Experience:" "The mere hopes of being able to relieve society from the curse of constant drugging, should lead us to hail with gratitude the Homœopathist's investigations. That many physicians, but especially apothecaries, who live by overwhelming their patients with useless, and too frequently pernicious medicines, will warmly, nay furiously, inveigh against any innovation of the kind, must be expected as the natural result of interested apprehension; and any man who aims at simplicity in practice will be denounced as guilty of medical heresy. Have we not seen inoculation and vaccination branded with the most opprobrious epithets, merely because their introduction tended to diminish professional lucre? But the facts I am about recording, — facts which induced me, from having been one of the warmest opponents of this system, to investigate carefully and dispassionately its practical points, — will effectually contradict all these assertions regarding the inefficacy of the Homœopathic doses, the influence of diet, or the agency of the mind; for in the following cases in no one instance could such influences be brought into action. They were (with scarcely any exception) experiments made without the patient's knowledge, and where no time was allowed for any particular regimen. *They may, moreover, be conscientiously relied upon, since they were made with a view to prove the fallacy of the Homœopathic practice.* Their result, as

may be perceived by the foregoing observations, by no means rendered me a convert to the absurdities of the doctrine, but fully convinced me, by the most incontestable facts, that the introduction of fractional doses will soon banish the farrago of nostrums that are now exhibited to the manifest prejudice both of the health and the purse of the sufferer."

At the conclusion of his experiments, Dr. Millingen adds: "I could record many instances of similar results, but they would of course be foreign to the nature of this work. *I trust that the few cases I have related will afford a convincing proof of the injustice, if not the unjustifiable obstinacy, of those practitioners, who, refusing to submit the Homœopathic system to a fair trial, condemn it without investigation.* That this practice will be adopted by quacks and needy adventurers, there is no doubt; but Homœopathy is a science on which numerous voluminous works have been written by enlightened practitioners, whose situation in life placed them far above the necessities of speculation. Their publications are not sealed volumes, and any practitioner can also obtain the preparations they recommend. *It is possible, nay, more than probable, that physicians cannot find time to commence a new course of studies, for such this investigation must prove. If this is the case, let them frankly avow their utter ignorance of the doctrine, and not denounce, with merciless tyranny, a practice of which they do not possess the slightest knowledge.*"

America. — VALENTINE MOTT, justly the pride of American Surgery, imbued with the becoming liberality of an unprejudiced and noble mind, visited Hahnemann during his first sojourn in Europe. Instead of denoun-

cing this venerable philosopher as a conceptionist of a puerile and useless theory, he has had the moral courage to speak of the Master Spirit of modern medical history in the following language: "*Hahnemann is one of the most accomplished and scientific physicians of the present age.*"

Professor James McNaughton, of the Western Medical College of the University of the State of New-York, and late President of the New-York State Medical Society, in his "Annual Address" before the Society, made an avowal of sentiments that were inspired by the pure spirit of philosophy. To these, the attention of the physicians he alludes to, is emphatically directed. "Generally speaking, they have at once pronounced the whole subject absurd — a delusion — or a gross imposition upon public credulity. Now, is this the proper mode of treating it? Is it philosophical to call any thing absurd, professing to be founded on observation and experiment? If it be false, it should be proved to be so, by showing that facts do not warrant the premises, or the deductions drawn from them." "It is possible, that the Homœopathic reasoning may be erroneous; it is possible that the medicines may act as specifics, like the vaccine virus, and that the mode of action may be altogether inexplicable, in the present state of our knowledge. We are therefore more interested in determining the correctness of the alleged facts, than in that of the theory offered to explain them. Many of these facts are of such a kind as admit of easy examination, and can be readily proved or refuted." "Whether Homœopathy be true or not, it is entitled to have its claims fairly investigated. The object of the profession is to ascertain the truth; and if

it should turn out that, in any disease, the Homœopathic remedies are more efficacious than those known to the ordinary system, they ought unquestionably to be used. It will not do for the members of the professions to wrap themselves up in their dignity, and to call the new system absurd, without further inquiry. The history of the profession presents many lamentable instances of the obstinacy with which errors have been clung to, and improvements resisted."

ALLOPATHISTS CONVERTED TO HOMŒOPATHIA.

The renunciation of old and the adoption of new views, on the part of a *few* individuals alone, ought not, and do not, entitle their advocates to the confidence of the community. But, if scores on scores, hundreds on hundreds, and thousands on thousands, start forward with fixedness of purpose for resolute action to maintain and defend the revealed evidences of a reform, jests, ridicule and satire will prove but puny obstacles to their advance ; and, unless apparently equal forces are arrayed in antagonism, such reform will spread with irresistible influence throughout the world, in proportion to the amount of testimony upon which it may be based, and to the sum of benefits it does and can confer.

Homœopathia professes to be such a reform, and, instead of being sustained and propagated by a few foolish or knavish zealots, it is publicly advocated by more than *one thousand* physicians, who have relinquished Allopathia, to become its adherents. It numbers thousands and tens of thousands among its laymen, and, besides its extension in different parts of the world, includes one-

half of the entire population of Germany among the recipients of its practice.

Of the thousand physicians converted to Homœopathia, the following examples will afford an impression : F. F. Quin, M. D., in London, recently physician to Leopold, King of the Belgians. Count des Guidi, doctor in medicine and sciences, officer of the University of France, late professor of mathematics, member of the Royal Academy of Naples, Turin, &c. A. L. Jourdan, M. D., of Paris, member of the Institute of France, and of many celebrated societies, has been long recognised as the associate of the prominent medical literati of France ; Le Chevalier don Cosmo de Horatii, M. D., President of the Academy of Medicine, and Physician to the Military Hospital ; Quadri, M. D., Professor of the University and Physician to the Ophthalmic Hospital ; Bigelius, M. D., Physician to the late Emperor of Russia ; Dr. Trinius, the distinguished Russian botanist, and Counsellor of State ; Dr. Stegemann, also Counsellor of State at St. Petersburg ; and G. L. Rau, M. D., Physician to the Duke of Hesse Darmstadt.

For other distinguished medical converts beside Muhlenbein and Schuler, we refer the inquirer to the next section, which will contain the names and titles of men who, with few exceptions, were adherents of the old school before their adoption of Homœopathia.

REPUTATION OF HOMŒOPATHISTS AND HOMŒOPATHIA.

This important link in our chain of evidences, indicating the present rank of Homœopathia, and strengthened by the confirmation of authorities that are not Homœo-

pathic, is respectfully and especially submitted to the consideration of those who, either wilfully or ignorantly, have circulated the silly report of "the downfall of Homœopathia in Europe." Dr. Quin, whom we have enumerated among the converted Allopathists, is distinguished as the first Homœopathic physician in England. Besides the compliment of being selected as attending physician to the King of Belgium, he commands an immensely lucrative practice among the noble and intelligent of Great Britain. In the circle of his patients, the Marquis of Anglesea represents the former, Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer the latter. The names and reputation of other eminent converts to the new doctrine, having just passed under review, their repetition here would be superfluous.

PROFESSORS. — The following doctors of medicine, who hold professorships of medicine, chemistry, or philosophy, in different universities on the continent, are recognised and respected as prominent advocates of Homœopathia: Professors Quadri, Guaranta, Arnold, Wahlenburg, Mabit, Leupoldt, Fleischmann, Roth, Werber, Succow, Crépu, Martin, of the Universities at Naples, Heidelberg, Upsalia, Bordeaux, Erlangen, Munich, Carlsruhe, Jena, Grenoble.

COUNSELLORS. — The distinction of counsellors of state and counsellors in medicine, is conferred by the sovereigns of Europe upon such physicians alone as are distinguished for their acquisitions in general science and medicine, and is esteemed as a compliment of the highest order. Homœopathia has of such adherents, twenty-three state counsellors and nine medical counsellors.

Many physicians and surgeons in Europe, whose success in the practice of the healing art through the agency of Homœopathia, has been undeniable, have been rewarded by places of honour, which Allopathic practitioners have always struggled to secure. From such we are enabled to record :

Dr. Aegidi, appointed physician to Princess Frederica of Prussia.

Dr. Muhlenbein, physician to the Duke of Brunswick.

Dr. Kurtz, physician to the Duchess of Anhalt Dessau.

Dr. Cramer, physician to the Grand Duke Charles of Carlsruhe.

Dr. Romani, physician to the Queen of Naples.

Dr. Necker, physician to the Duke of Lucques.

Dr. Rückert, physician to Count Holberg and Count Hohenthal, Koningsbruck.

Dr. Griesselich, surgeon to the Grand Duke of Baden.

Dr. Atmüller, court sugeon at Cassel.

Dr. Horatiis, president of the Academy of Medicine, (Allopathic,) was selected physician to Francis I, the late King of Naples. Dr. Stapf was called to attend the Dowager Queen of England ; but the important position he holds in Germany compelled him to decline the honour. Buongiovanni is physician to the Hospital of Invalids at Naples. Baldi is surgeon in chief to the Neapolitan army. La Raga is physician to the Military Hospital of Cotrone. Sannicola is chief director of the Civil and Military Hospital of the kingdom of Naples.

ARMY. — It contains thirteen surgeons and physicians.

COLLATERAL TESTIMONY derived from sources *not* Homœopathic. We offer it as it is ; it needs no comment. *Le Moniteur*, the official organ of the French government, thus refers to the distinction conferred on Dr. Mabit, in consequence of his successful Homœopathic treatment of cholera at Bordeaux, and also for having founded a Homœopathic hospital, the results of which were sufficiently striking to command the attention of the French sovereign : “ Dr. Mabit has been created knight of the legion of honour ; a recompense rendered to his devotion and exertions on the appearance of the Asiatic cholera, as well as to his steadfast zeal and continued researches for the interests of humanity and progress of medicine.”

WILLIAM LEO-WOLF, M. D., an Allopathic physician, who has published a large volume, entitled “ Remarks on the Abracadabra of the nineteenth century ; or on Dr. Samuel Hahnemann’s Homœopathic Medicine ; ” composed in the most rabid and virulent temper against Hahnemann and his system, admits thus much as to the condition of Homœopathia in Germany : “ The last accounts from thence state, that the chamber of deputies of Baden have resolved, almost unanimously, to have a special chair of Homœopathia in the Heidelberg University ; the same, we are told, was resolved by the Bavarian government for the University of Munich.” And again : “ We are told also by men upon whose veracity we can rely, that new trials of Homœopathia are contemplated in some other capitals of Germany, in consequence of the wishes expressed by many

distinguished individuals in the armies and in official stations, who have said they were cured by Homœopaths, after they had been long and unsuccessfully treated by other physicians ; perhaps, also, because Dr. Kopp, known as the learned and experienced practitioner, and author on legal and practical medicine, has seemingly joined the Homœopathic ranks."

In the *Journal de Médecine Pratique de Bordeaux*, (an Allopathic Journal,) the subjoined confession from an Allopathic correspondent, to its editor, is recorded : " In my recent communication to you, in which I stated that the new German doctrine had made but slight progress at Bordeaux, I uttered the truth ; but what a difference has been accomplished in one month ! Many of our most distinguished citizens, to the astonishment of the envious, have displayed the most absolute confidence in the mild and agreeable rules of Homœopathia ; and men of serious reflection — learned and illustrious — men in every respect exempt from the blind credulity of the vulgar, have not disdained to depend upon its singular therapeutics."

PROFESSORSHIPS OF HOMŒOPATHIA.

During the past year, at one of the sittings of the Diet of Hesse-Darmstadt, the subject of Homœopathia was publicly discussed. Wolff, counsellor of state, thus remarked : "*Facts* speak louder than words, and, as my colleague, Glaubrech, has justly observed, one single fact is worth more than a shipload of proofs a priori, hypotheses, &c. On this account I have confined myself exclusively to facts. I state further as a *fact*, that about fifteen Universities and Academies allow lec-

tures on Homœopathia; and of these professorships eight or ten of the most celebrated are recognised in Germany." According to this recent communication of Counsellor Wolff, five foreign and two German professorships, whose names we have not yet obtained, have been established within the past two years, beside the following :

1. At Heidelberg a professorship has been created, and Dr. Arnold has been chosen professor.
2. The Government of Hanover has decreed the formation of a professorship at the University of Gottingen.
3. At Erlangen, Professor Leupoldt occupies the chair of Homœopathia with flattering success.
4. At the University of Munich, the professorship of Homœopathia has been conferred upon Dr. Roth.
5. At Jena, the Homœopathic professorship is held by Dr. Martin.
6. A professorship has been created at Leipzig.
7. Another at Freiberg.
8. A professorship has been recently formed in the Duchy of Darmstadt, to which Dr. Rau will probably be called.

HOMŒOPATHIC LITERATURE.

The literature of Homœopathia has been as little known, and has encountered as much misrepresentation, as any one of its departments. It can be scarcely credited, even among the friends of Homœopathia, except by its physicians, that about SEVEN HUNDRED volumes have been issued from the press, developing the peculiarities of the system, and many of them possessed of a scientific character, that *savans* know well how to respect. Controlled by an earnest desire to confirm our statement of facts by personal observations and testi-

mony, we have taken especial trouble to investigate this subject, and thus feel personally enabled, after a direct inspection, to enumerate, as the result of our labours, the existence of six out of seven hundred volumes that have enriched the Russian, Danish, Italian, German, French and English languages.

Twenty periodicals of the system have been established in different parts of the world, the most prominent of which are *Archiv für die Homœopathische Heilkunst*, *Allgemeine Homœopathische Zeitung*, *Bibliothèque Homœopathique*, and *Archives de la Médecine Homœopathique*.

HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITALS, INFIRMARIES AND SOCIETIES.

Leipzig. — This city has the honour of establishing the first Homœopathic hospital in Europe. It has had a successful existence of six years, up to the present time, deriving its support from voluntary contributions and an annual grant from the Saxon Government, whose warm approval it has obtained.

Munich. — A hospital has been formed in this city under the sanction of the government of Bavaria. Charles, Prince of Oettingen and Wallenstein, one of the ablest advocates of Homœopathia in Europe, presented the subject of its institution to the Bavarian Chamber of Deputies, which unanimously voted an annual contribution of four thousand florins toward its support. An extensive and suitable edifice has been granted, and "Homœopathia," as Counsellor Widmann remarks, "has become a national concern in Bavaria."

Paris. — In consequence of the extension of Homœ-

opathia in France, an application was made to the French government for the establishment of a national Homœopathic hospital. The government referred the matter to the Royal Academy of Medicine, which, composed entirely of Allopathists, with the exception of Jourdan, most vehemently opposed and reported against its organization, and successfully for the present. A private hospital was subsequently formed, the dispensations of whose signal benefits, with the powerful influence that is daily accumulating, must, before long, accomplish the desired grant. Gaspari, Guizot, and Duchatel, members of the French ministry, are ardent Homœopaths, and will contribute their aid.

Bordeaux. — The great éclat that attended the successful issue of Homœopathia against the ravages of cholera in this place, very naturally led to the establishment of a general hospital. This institution is now open under the able management of Dr. Mabit, who is assisted by several associates. The hospital contains a hundred and fifty beds, and several thousand patients have experienced its benefits since its organization.

Hungary. — A hospital was formed in the town of Guns, about five years since, under the guidance of Dr. Michael Bletz, and has fully sustained the reputation of the Homœopathic practice.

London. — The London Homœopathie Dispensary" was established several years since by Dr. Curie, and has materially aided in extending the knowledge of Homœopathia among the citizens of London. Its prospective value has been very much enhanced, of late, by the liberality of a London banker, Mr. Leaf, who has proffered pecuniary aid to any extent that will render its

dispensations useful. The dispensary being securely organized, as to permanency, Dr. Curie has recently promulgated the desire of the friends of the German doctrine, to have its merits publicly canvassed and adjudged, as stated in his circular: "To enable the subscribers and the public to form an opinion of the value of this institution, it is intended, monthly, to publish a faithful report of the cases treated in it; and, while the names will be carefully excluded, a reference will be kept, in each case, whereby the truth of the report may be ascertained."

Oxford. — Mr. Langston, another wealthy patron of Homœopathia in England, has founded a hospital in the vicinity of Oxford, the superintendence of which has been conferred upon Dr. Mottal. The provisions made for its extended utility are of such a munificent character, that the prospects of Homœopathia in Great Britain are of the most gratifying promise.

Glasgow. — We have been informed in a late communication from Dr. Curie, that a dispensary is also about being instituted in this town under the management of Dr. Scott.

Palermo. — Dr. Mure opened a dispensary in this city in 1838, in which, at first, about twenty-five patients were treated daily. In 1839, the number had increased to two hundred, daily, requiring the attention of six Homœopathic physicians. The increase of patients in the Homœopathic infirmary, advanced in the ratio of their decline in the Allopathic hospitals, and so palpably, that the attention of the Abbe Baudiera, M. D., was called to the investigation of the system, which he has finally adopted. The Abbe, who is physician in chief to the

Hospital des Freres de St. Jean de Dieu, introduced the Homœopathic treatment, at once, into this hospital, which may now be considered an institution of the Hahnemannean method.

Montreal, Pietraperzia and Mistrella. — Each of these towns had Allopathic hospitals in 1838. The conversions at Palermo, extending throughout Sicily, embraced their physicians, including the chiefs of their hospitals. These hospitals are, at the present time, Homœopathic.

Beside these establishments for the sick in the towns enumerated, there are many forms of infirmaries organized in many of the prominent towns on the continent, in all of which, nearly similar results of treatment are obtained.

Homœopathic societies have grown with the growth of the system, and according to the information acquired by Counsellor Wolff, there are at present forty associations in Europe, composed of physicians and laymen of eminence.

PUBLIC TRIALS OF HOMŒOPATHIA IN HOSPITALS.

Much brave talk has arisen on all sides of Homœopathia, about the results of its adoption in public hospitals, by order of several governments, for the avowed purpose of testing its merits as a system. The staunch adherents of both sides have taken steps which should have been avoided. The opponents of the new mode, evidently feeling that the honour of Hippocrates reposed on their prowess, have uniformly striven to furnish their distant colleagues with the means of asserting, that it had suffered a signal defeat; while the over-zealous

followers of Hahnemann, spurred on equally by an *esprit propre*, have not failed to affirm a triumphant success. Both parties have forgotten, for the time, that the contest might not end with them — nor be confined to their country — nor await, in troubled humility, the decisions of court ephemeræ — but that it may last to another age, be tested by other people, and that its decision, maugre the will of princes and cabinet ministers, depends alone on the dispassionate decrees of that catholic tribunal, calm, sound philosophy ! whose ultimate and irreversible dicta are seldom pronounced, till the witnesses and noisy appellants have left her halls for ever. It is easy to make assertions on medical experience, which, though not founded upon real testimony, thousands will believe, merely because they have been asserted ; but it is also very difficult, often impossible, to demonstrate, at once, the fallacy of such illegitimate assertions. This is, perhaps, more true of medicine than of theology, though the history of both the sciences is full, to overflowing, of devious heresies and marvellous relations, which have seldom, if ever, quite died away, in the age which gave them birth. And it certainly will not hasten the slow advances of truth to get angry at the perverse habits of the race to believe mere words, or to attempt, by wholesale counter assertions, to mark out the path which she is destined to occupy.

Enough of this old-fashioned folly has been committed, as we have said, on both sides of the present contest in medicine ; and perhaps no department of the conflict has been more fruitful, in these respects, than the reports, debates, and conclusions, which have grown out of the hospital trials of the new mode within the

last ten years. So far as we have been able to learn, one party has gained as much as the other; neither has been victor nor vanquished — and, of course both have, been loud in their claims for the palm of victory. With respect to the public at large, we have no doubt of the new party having gained by each of these quasi tests for their theory.

There have been six public and formal trials of the Homœopathic practice, undertaken by order of the continental governments, viz. 1. At Vienna, in 1828, conducted by Dr. Maronzeller; 2. At Tulzyn, (Russia,) 1827; 3. At St. Petersburg, in 1829—30, conducted by Dr. Hermann; 4. At Munich, (Bavaria,) in 1830—31, by Dr. Attomyr; 5. At Paris, in 1834, by Dr. Andral, jun.; and 6. At Naples, in 1835, by several physicians. The Austrian Government received the report of the commissions appointed to oversee the trial at Vienna, consisting wholly of Allopathists, and upon its recommendation, interdicted Homœopathia by an imperial decree. This edict was, not long after, entirely repealed. The Russian commissions, consisting, in both cases, of Allopathists, reported that the trials were not decisive, and the government took no steps, at that time, either in favour of, or against the new practice. The commission went so far in relation to the St. Petersburg trial, (which appears to have been conducted with more care and patience than the others,) as to report, that “*the results were not unfavourable to Homœopathia.*”

In 1833, the government issued an Imperial Ukase, recognising the new school, and establishing, throughout that vast domain, depots of drugs, prepared accord-

ing to Hahnemann's rules and practice. The results in Munich are not within our immediate reach, but it is probably that they were quite satisfactory, since the King added a professorship of this practice to the University of Munich, which still exists; and recently, he has caused a Homœopathic hospital to be established, on a very liberal plan. The trial in Paris was conducted by an eminent and very enlightened Allopathist, without the assistance of any person acquainted with the method.

Judging from his tabular report, which, we do not doubt, is frank and faithful, it is pretty evident that he did not know enough of the method to select the remedies, with any tolerable precision. Nevertheless, his reports were considered, by many doctors of medicine, in England and America, as quite conclusive against the system of Hahnemann, and great pains were taken in these countries, by aid of non professional reviews, and common newspapers, to deal a death-blow at it, with this javelin forged by Andral, though he never made use of it himself. It certainly was no test of the method. The symptoms were not recorded; the drugs were not selected by comparing such records with the *materia medica*; and the doses of the drugs adopted were not repeated scientifically, if at all. The operator applied dubious Allopathic names to the maladies, and prescribed, *against such names*, drugs, Homœopathical only to *determinate sufferings*, between which and these fanciful names, M. Andral supposed some essential relation to exist. This test consisted in applying Homœopathic preparations upon Allopathic principles — than which no proceeding can possibly be more

absurd — and we by no means wonder at M. Andral having observed a profound silence as to his general conclusions. We are not quite certain, whether Andral undertook these experiments by order of the minister of public health, or merely with his consent. As it regards the influence of Andral's experiments upon the state of the system in France, it cannot for a moment be pretended, that they retarded its progress in any sensible degree. The number of converts among physicians and savans is certainly on the increase. There are several provincial Homœopathic societies, and one general association, for all France, called "Gallicain." At Bordeaux, there is a flourishing infirmary, under the charge of Dr. Mabit, who received the decorations of the legion of honour, as before stated, on account of his alleged brilliant success in the Homœopathic treatment of cholera, in that city.

In a letter, quite recently received from the celebrated Dr. Peschier, we are informed that, at the great medical school of Montpellier, the new doctrine has many adherents and teachers. Dr. Peschier thinks that school will very soon publicly avow its attachment to the Homœopathic method. In 1835, the King of Naples ordered a trial of Homœopathia to be made, under the supervision of a mixed commission in La Trinité, at Naples. The royal programme for this trial, directed, that each day's journal should be attested by all the members of the commission. As the trial progressed, there arose difficulties among the members of the commission: tumultuous disturbances, according to published statements of a clergyman attending the trial, interrupted its proper course; the Allopathic

members neglected to attend and attest the diary, and made a separate secret report to the minister of health, during the absence of the King, and his physician, Dr. Horatiis, (one of the commission, a Homœopathist.)

About the fortieth day of the trial, the government arrested it, "because," to use its own language, "*the instructions contained in the programme had not been followed faithfully!*" The decree closing this public trial concludes by saying that it is not decisive, the King reserving to himself the right of opening another, whenever private practice shall produce a sufficiently extensive impression upon the public opinion in favour of the new system. There were but two deaths during the forty-five days which this trial lasted; although quite other statements have been made. Our authority for this assertion is, the publication of the priest above alluded to, who was present every day of the trial, and faithfully examined each case. This imperfect trial seems to have had little or no influence upon the state of Homœopathia in Italy — certainly none of an unfavourable character. At the present time, there are probably a greater number of adherents to this system in the Roman States, Naples and Sicily, in proportion to the number of medical men, than elsewhere, out of Saxony, in the world. At Palermo, there appears to have been a much more general adoption of the new mode, than in any other single city in Europe.

It is to be regretted that the foregoing trials were not undertaken with a very specific object, instead of the too general one of ascertaining the truth of Hahnemann's mode, as a system assumed to be complete in all its parts. Had the commission in each case been

directed to ascertain for example, whether the principle of Homœopathia ‘*similia similibus curantur*’ be true, in the first instance, and, if found to be true, next to ascertain, as nearly as possible, the minimum dose of each drug with reference to the due execution of this law, we are persuaded that actual results would have been obtained. This was the process in Hahnemann’s own course, and has uniformly been that of every conversion from the old methods to Homœopathia. No medical man of sound education, can, we think, attempt the dilutions, till upon trial with very small Allopathic doses, he is quite satisfied of the truth of the main law of the new plan. It is far from being a just or necessary conclusion, that if the 30th dilution fail in a given instance, the lower dilutions will also fail; and if these fail in the same case, neither is it necessary that the still cruder preparations, as the powders or tinctures of the shop should also fail. The trials should have been ordered for some tangible specific purpose, to ascertain the truth of some one or two important propositions. The comparison of the bills of mortality among an equal number of sick, treated by divers methods, is a most poor and lame way to get at conclusions touching principles of the healing art. Supposing the climate, season of the year, local advantages, &c., to be as nearly the same as possible, in a trial between the two modes of treatment, the diversities in regard to diseases treated, would certainly forestall any just conclusions. But supposing (an impossibility) the disease be one and exactly the same in both hospitals, and admitting the age and sex of all the patients to be the same, who could make the allowance imperatively necessary for diversi-

ties in the vigour and power of endurance and in the *morale* of the patient! Besides, admitting (another impossibility) the constitutional vigour and moral state to be the same in all the sick, by what scale are we to graduate the disease with respect to intensity, and therefore danger, so as to make sound and available conclusions from the bills of mortality? The attempt must for ever prove as unsatisfactory as it is absurd — unphilosophical.

We close this subject, for the present, at least, with a recapitulation, showing the actual history and popular results of the several misnamed public tests of Homœopathia.

RECAPITULATION.

1828.	<i>Austria.</i>	1839.
The Allopathic commission reported against Homœopathia, after the trial at Vienna, although they stated that "system is not inefficacious." The government, therefore, interdicted its practice.		<i>The interdict has been removed.</i> Medical men of eminence have acknowledged their belief in Homœopathia. And part of the imperial household is at present under Homœopathic treatment.
1827.	<i>Russia.</i>	1839.
The experiments were not sufficiently satisfactory to obtain the establishment of Homœopathic hospitals under government patronage.		Homœopathia is now recognised by government, and Homœopathic institutions are organized for the better regulation of the practice throughout the empire.
1834.	<i>France.</i>	1839.
Trials were made by Andral without a knowledge of the system, and he did not succeed.		The system has widely extended throughout the kingdom, with the prospect of the school of Montpellier in its favour.
1835.	<i>Italy.</i>	1839.
A public trial undertaken by order of the King of Naples, was closed before it was complete, because the Allopathic commission would not obey the instructions contained in the royal order.		The extension of Homœopathia in Italy exceeds that in any other part of Europe, excepting Saxony. Physicians, priests and literati have embraced its doctrines. Hospitals and infirmaries are being organized, and many that were Allopathic have been appropriated to the use of the Homœopaths.

STATISTICS OF HOMŒOPATHIC TREATMENT.

The treatment of cholera and its results produced the first strong popular impression in Europe, as to the efficiency of Homœopathia.

Summary made by Dr. Peschier of the results of the Homœopathic treatment of Cholera in Europe, up to 1832.

In Russia (documents of Admiral Mordvinoff; observations of Drs. Seider and Peterson,) there were 1557 patients treated, 1394 cured, and 163 died. In Austria (documents of Dr. Roth; observations of Drs. Schreter, Hanusch, and Quin,) there were 1408 patients treated, 1314 cured, and 94 died. At Berlin, (observations of Drs. Stuller and Haynel,) there were 32 patients treated, 26 cured, and 6 died. At Paris, (observations of Dr. Quin,) there were 19 patients treated, and 19 cured. Total — 3017 patients treated, 2753 cured, and 264 died.

LEIPSIC HOSPITAL.

We have already alluded to the successful continuation of this Hospital under the Saxon government.

Abstract from the official and public reports of the *in-door* patients of this institution. During the year 1833, 118 patients were treated, of which number 4 died; 1834, 120, of which 5 died; 1835, 93, of which 11 died; 1836, 110, of which 5 died; 1837, 107, of which 8 died. Total, 548 patients, of which 33 died. Deaths at the rate of about 6 per cent. Abstract from the report of the *out-door* patients attended by the physicians of the Leipsic Hospital. During the year 1833, 1086

patients were treated, of which number 17 died ; 1834, 463, of which 7 died ; 1835, 283, of which 9 died ; 1836, 261, of which 5 died ; 1837, 332, of which 10 died. Total, 2425 patients, of which 48 died."

In the foregoing pages, I have confined myself to their expressed object, that of endeavouring to call your attention, as a physician, to what has been unadvisedly rejected as an absurdity, by the mass of the profession. I have represented it to you, as I have adopted it myself ; as a principle on which medicines may be applied for the cure of disease. Starting with this as a foundation, that nature cures the disease, and the object of medicine is to assist nature, the question is, what are the principles on which remedies are to be applied ? Experience teaches us that there are three, viz : Allopathia, Antipathia, and Homœopathia.

The first (Allopathia) is the exciting of another disease, or disease in another organ or tissue, to relieve the existing one ; as by purgatives in diseases of the head, chest, limbs, &c. Blisters to the skin in affections of the lungs, and other internal diseases, and the like.

The second (Antipathia, or palliative treatment,) is the temporary mitigation of suffering, or moderating of threatening symptoms by means of a remedy whose primitive effect is the opposite of the existing troublesome symptom or symptoms, that, during its action, the system may have time to rally its forces, or derive aid from other remedies, which have a more direct reference to the entire disease : as, for example, the application of cold to a hot inflamed surface ; the abstraction of blood in inflammation ; exciting secretion, where it is

deficient, by medicines whose primary effect is to favour such secretion — as calomel in deficiency of bile, antimony in dryness of the skin, &c.

The third (Homœopathia) I have already explained. Experience teaches us, that they are all applicable in the treatment of disease, and that the choice of one, or another, or all, in a given case, must depend upon the circumstances of the case. I will not tax your patience farther, but subscribe myself, with sentiments of respect and sincere regard,

Your obliged friend,

JNO. AUG. McVICKAR.

No. 1, Le Roy Place, }
4th April, 1841. }

